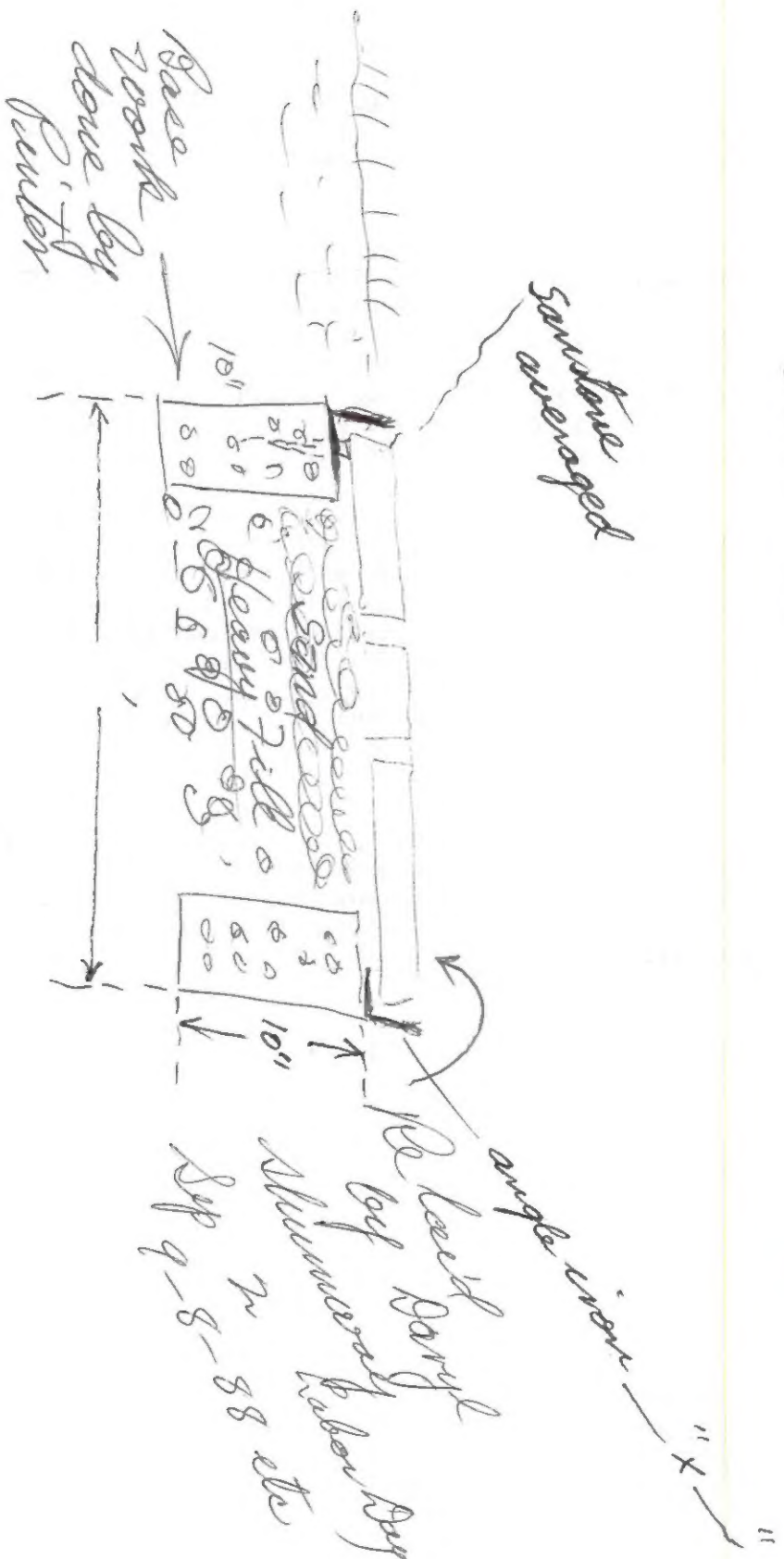


Cross-Section of
New Tabernacle Red
Sandstone side wall

Doctor



Contributors of Stone:
Old wall below
Erwin & Florence Anderson



UTAH VALLEY
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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(801) 373-7850

Mark J. Howard, Executive Director
Keith D. Tittle, Administrator

MEMO To Physicians

FROM: Gregory C. Critchfield, M.D., M.S., *JCC*
 Medical Director, Utah Valley Reg. Med. Center, Blood Bank

DATE: September 2, 1988

SUBJECT: Blood Donors Reactive for Antibody to Hepatitis B Virus
 core.

As some of you are probably aware, a letter has recently been sent out from the Utah Valley Regional Medical Center Blood Bank to all donors who have had a positive test for the antibody to the hepatitis B core antigen (anti-HBc). This is a marker that we use to exclude donors who may possibly transmit non-A, non-B hepatitis (NANB) to recipients of their blood.

Unfortunately, approximately 2.2% of our blood donors are positive for anti-HBc. We are unable to use any anti-HBc-positive blood because of the inherently higher risk to the recipients. From the donor's standpoint, management becomes much less clear. In many cases, positive donors are low level reactors whose positive tests result from reactivity hovering at or near the cutoff. Upon repeat testing, these blood donors are oftentimes negative for this same marker. It should also be remembered that before 1986, blood banks in the United States were not screening for this marker at all.

The letter that was sent is purposely vague about the meaning of anti-HBc positivity. In some instances, it may be justified to order a complete hepatitis profile that would include the hepatitis B surface antigen, anti-HBc, and anti-HBs. The last marker, if positive, would give evidence that the patient has, at some time, been exposed to the hepatitis B virus, and has established an immune response to the virus. If all markers are negative, and if the patient has no risk factors for HBV infection, then the patient probably could be classified as a false positive reactor.

I have attached a copy of the letter for your information. If you have any questions regarding this policy, or details of a particular case, please feel free to call me at 373-7850, ext. 2364.